



21 CSC: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is pleased to announce the 2014 *Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists* grant program recipients in support of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Initiative. The goal of the grant program is to support organizations that are developing innovative conservation job opportunities for youth that expose young people, particularly urban and minority youth, to the natural world and career opportunities available in conservation.

In total, \$1,905,279 in federal funds (\$1 million BLM, \$444,035 USFS, \$361,244 Reclamation, and \$100,000 FWS) will be leveraged into more than \$6.75 million to support 43 youth conservation employment projects on public lands throughout the United States. These projects will expose more than 620 youth to paid conservation work experiences benefiting our public lands. In addition, these projects are expected to provide approximately 1,550 volunteer opportunities within the local communities.

Alaska

Youth on the Land: Alaska Summer Interns (AK) (#42978)

BLM Funds:	\$15,000
Matching Funds:	\$15,000
Total Project Funds:	\$30,000

Project Description: The BLM will partner with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center to hire 10 local young adults (ages 16-25), and one local SCA intern to participate in meaningful hands-on projects that will increase their skills and knowledge of a variety of natural resource management and environmental education-related careers. Youth interns will complete a minimum of 80 hours during the summer working on projects that will help enhance and maintain the Campbell Tract for users and wildlife. The Campbell Tract is a 730-acre parcel of public land managed by the BLM in Anchorage and includes creeks, forests and a network of recreational trails. Interns will work alongside professionals in the field to remove invasive weeds, assist with creek bioassessments and a butterfly count, shadow and deliver quality environmental education programs, and help complete trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects along the south fork of the Campbell Creek. The SCA intern will work full-time for 17 weeks, helping Science Center staff mentor the youth interns in the field as they work biomonitoring, habitat restoration, and trail maintenance projects and assigning relevant readings in science and environmental education and leading discussion sessions based on those readings. The SCA intern will also help organize and lead volunteers in stewardship projects during National Trails Day.

Project Location: The Campbell Tract in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ibeck Creek/Eyak River Watershed Stewardship Project*Southeast Alaska Guidance Association*

NFWF Project #: 43068

USFS Funds:	\$18,601
Matching Funds:	\$18,601
Total Project Funds:	\$37,202

Project Description: The Southeast Alaska Guidance Association will recruit Alaskan youth through its Alaska Service Corps Program (ASC) and partner with the USFS Cordova Ranger District (USFS-CRD) and the Copper River Watershed Project (CRWP) to provide the youth with important on-the-job mentoring and job skills development for the “Ibeck Creek/Eyak River Watershed Stewardship” project. A crew of seven AmeriCorps members, aged 17-25, will work for four weeks on projects that include mitigating human use impacts along a major Coho spawning stream by reducing trails and stream crossings; re-vegetating stream banks, and planting willows and alders; re-developing a historic recreational trail by installing boardwalk sections; and removing invasive Reed Canary grass in order to re-establish native plants and improve soil conditions. ASC youth will undergo training and engage in skill building activities throughout the field season working with on-site project managers. In addition, the youth will receive one week of specialized training that presents basic and specific skills such as Bear Safety, cross-cultural competency, tool use, and Best Management Practices for Habitat Restoration. The youth crew will also learn about job development opportunities throughout the field season, including workshops on how to complete job applications, how to find jobs online, and job interviewing practice, and visit an Alaska Job Center to create an online profile for the statewide recruitment system.

Project Location: Eyak River Watershed in Cordova, Alaska.

Arizona**Gila Watershed Youth Employment in Conservation (AZ)***Bureau of Land Management*

NFWF Project #: 41643

BLM Funds:	\$74,800
Matching Funds:	\$192,000
Total Project Funds:	\$266,800

Project Description: BLM will hire a recent college graduate with a resource management background to help develop and integrate BLM and Arizona Gila Watershed Partnership (AGWP) projects and programs which will engage local high school and college students, Southwest Conservation Corps members, and community volunteers in conservation and stewardship activities. Twelve young adults will be paid to implement restoration work at sites that include Eastern Arizona College’s Discovery Park Campus and the Our Neighbors Farm Community Garden Projects. Activities will include propagation of native plants, installation of native pollinator hedgerows, removal of invasive species (primarily tamarisk), incorporation of water harvesting opportunities to reduce erosion and support native plants, and planting native vegetation for improved riparian and upland habitat.

Project Location: Gila River, San Simon watershed, and Gila Valley, Arizona.

STEM: BLM Riparian Studies and Habitat Restoration*Arizona BLM Safford Field Office*

NFWF Project #: 41846

BLM Funds: \$74,420

Matching Funds: \$82,000

Total Project Funds: \$156,420

Project Description: BLM’s Safford Field Office will partner with Eastern Arizona College, collaborate with the Spring Stewardship Institute and the FWS, and provide data to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program by employing 23 youth to conduct natural resource assessment, restoration, and monitoring projects. Through summer and school year intern and volunteer work experiences in four focal areas: (1) the Living Rivers Program; (2) Springs Inventory Program; (3) Habitat Restoration; and (4) Rare Plant Conservation. Undergraduate and graduate students will build science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills by collecting water quality data, conducting plant community characterization for bosques and galleries and habitat restoration, assessing springs, and engaging in surveillance for rare plant and animal species that include the Chiricahua leopard frog, Lowland leopard frog, Peebles Navajo cactus, and Chihuahuah scurfpea. Planting events to install native plants will include middle and high school student and volunteer participation. These efforts will contribute to ongoing long-term monitoring and habitat restoration efforts in southeastern Arizona and provide mentorship and training opportunities to explore conservation career pathways. Participants will also have the opportunity to obtain FWS certification for conducting Threatened and Endangered Species and springs inventory protocols.

Project Location: Navajo, Graham, Greenlee and Cochise Counties; Gila River, Sky Islands, and the San Simon Valley, Southeastern Arizona.

Verde River Habitat Improvement Project*Friends of Verde River Greenway*

NFWF Project #: 42653

USFS Funds: \$49,765

Matching Funds: \$84,649

Total Project Funds: \$134,414

Project Description: Friends of Verde River Greenway (FVRG) is partnering with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) and Prescott National Forest (PNF) as part of the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC), a public/private collaboration working to improve riparian health on a watershed scale while providing young adults with job skill training and education. The project will result in improving watershed health on the Upper Verde River, on the Prescott National Forest's Chino Valley Ranger District. The project will engage a crew of six corps members and two crew leaders for 2,240 hours of conservation service for seven weeks. The crew will use hand tools, chainsaws and herbicide to remove and treat target non-native invasive tamarisk, tree of heaven, Russian olive and giant reed. The Verde watershed is a priority watershed in the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater Conservation Initiative which supports the training and employment of conservation corps crews while restoring rivers in the Colorado River Basin.

Project Location: Chino Valley Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest.

California

Taking Flight: Youth Make A Difference In Condor Recovery	BLM Funds:	\$74,891
<i>American Conservation Experience</i>	Matching Funds:	\$120,097
NFWF Project #: 42485	Total Project Funds:	\$194,988

Project Description: The American Conservation Experience (ACE), in partnership with the BLM and Pinnacles National Park, will connect youth to public lands through an innovative, multi-scale conservation project that will provide jobs and applied job skills training to local and tribal youth. ACE will hire 23 youth to work on a large conservation program that includes endangered species protection, habitat restoration, community building, and environmental interpretation that will benefit BLM lands managed for conservation. Project activities and training will include: radio tracking condors, habitat restoration (such as microtrash collection, native seed collection, seeding, and invasive plant control), outreach through public speaking and presentations, video and web design for nature interpretation, and mentoring other youth through K-12 school programs. The youth will have job shadowing opportunities with professional natural resource managers and educators at the BLM field office in Hollister, the Condor and Habitat Restoration programs, and the University of California, Santa Cruz Environmental Toxicology Lab. A total of 32 project volunteers from surrounding communities will also carry out activities in the field to directly enhance California condor survival and restore their habitat.

Project Location: San Benito, Monterey, and Fresno Counties, California.

Watershed Stewards Project	BLM Funds:	\$60,000
<i>California Conservation Corps</i>	Reclamation Funds:	\$23,810
NFWF Project #: 43020	NFWF Funds:	\$16,190
	Matching Funds:	\$1,473,446
	Total Project Funds:	\$1,573,446

Project Description: The California Conservation Corps (CCC) will partner with various federal, state, county, tribal, and non-profit organizations to work together to revitalize priority watersheds throughout California, as identified by BLM and Reclamation. Twenty youth (aged 18-25) will be hired for the CCC's Watershed Stewards Project to address watershed and fish habitat restoration needs through the implementation of a five-part strategy: Watershed Protection and Recovery, Watershed Education, Community Outreach, Volunteer Recruitment, and Member Development. Activities will include restoration and/or monitoring of stream, riparian, and upland habitat and outreach presentations to schools and community groups to inform and engage community members in anadromous fish watershed restoration projects. The Real Science curriculum will increase participant knowledge of watershed processes and placement partners will provide training in natural resource management and other topics to better prepare the youth for professional careers in related fields.

Project Location: The Watershed Stewards Project partners with various organizations who work in anadromous watersheds in California. Current partners are located as far north as Yreka and as far south as Santa Monica.

Greys Mountain Meadow Restoration Project*American Conservation Experience*

NFWF Project #: 43207

USFS Funds: \$25,000

Matching Funds: \$64,087

Total Project Funds: \$89,087

Project Description: American Conservation Experience, in partnership with the USFS – Sierra National Forest and Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, will recruit and hire eight local and tribal youth to work on a multi-tiered conservation program that includes endangered species protection, habitat restoration, and community building. The youth will work with the USFS to restore 18 acres of meadow and five miles of stream channel in four montane wet meadows with unstable channels and compromised hydrologic function. Activities will target the most critical needs for repairing and stabilizing meadows and include constructing rock step-pool or log-fabric step-falls structures at headcuts in eroded streams and living willow revetments and/or brush mattresses along unstable channel banks. These efforts will reduce sediment input in sensitive aquatic habitat suitable for Sierra Nevada Yellow legged frog and Yosemite toad and will improve terrestrial habitat for the Great Grey owl and American marten.

Project Location: Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District, California.

Rancho Breisgan Riparian Habitat Restoration Project*River Partners*

NFWF Project #: 43216

BLM Funds: \$74,999

Matching Funds: \$163,733

Total Project Funds: \$238,732

Project Description: River Partners will partner with BLM to restore 306 acres of riparian habitat on Rancho Breisgau, located at the confluence of the Battle Creek and the Sacramento River in California. Battle Creek is the largest Sacramento River tributary north of the Feather River. Its headwaters originate in Lassen Volcanic National Park. BLM’s 426-acre Rancho Breisgau property lies three miles downstream of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery, the largest anadromous fish hatchery in the contiguous 48 states, which releases over 12 million Chinook salmon and Steelhead into Battle Creek annually. The project site is also located adjacent to the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, the 18,500 acre Sacramento River Bend Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the BLM National Recreation Area.

Of the 306 acres proposed for restoration, approximately 120 acres are abandoned walnut orchards. There are also approximately 80 acres of open fields and the balance, 106 acres, consists of habitat made up of a mixed native and non-native species. The project will support specific components of restoration work, including invasive species removal, native seed collection, seed processing, mowing and discing. All of these activities will support the first stages of restoring the 306 acre project area. The project will enhance floodplain habitat for salmonids, Neotropical birds, and other listed species. A total of 10 California Conservation Corps youth will be hired to engage in this restoration work.

Project Location: The project is located near the confluence of the Sacramento River and Battle Creek in California.

Colorado

Hogback Open Space Restoration

Garden Park Paleontology Society

NFWF Project #: 42605

BLM Funds: \$73,742

Matching Funds: \$169,000

Total Project Funds: \$242,742

Project Description: The Garden Park Paleontology Society, in partnership with the Mile High Youth Corps of Colorado Springs, will restore and enhance the Hogbacks Open Space area which has been degraded by previously uncontrolled motorized use, miles of social trails, invasive weeds, and improper water drainage. Although the Hogbacks area no longer supports motorized use, it is still open to a variety of users to enjoy its unique geological features and natural environment. A crew of 8-12 youth will be hired to close off over 6 miles of user-created trails and restore ecological function, enhance 5.5 miles of existing trails, and create 2.5 miles of new trail to provide users with outdoor recreational opportunities. Selected areas in the Hogback will be re-seeded to boost the growth of native flora, barriers and culverts installed to define and improve trail conditions. These activities align with and provide a foundation for the BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative focus on watershed improvements and landscape restoration in the Upper Arkansas River basin and desire to work with community partners to achieve their conservation goals.

Project Location: The Hogbacks Open Space, City of Cañon City, Upper Arkansas Basin, Colorado.

Urban Youth Conservation Career Ladder

Groundwork Denver, Incorporated

NFWF Project #: 43018

FWS Funds: \$20,000

USFS Funds: \$10,000

Matching Funds: \$39,710

Total Project Funds: \$69,710

Project Description: Groundwork Denver, Incorporated will provide 18 low-income urban youth with natural resource education, training and mentorship, and hands-on conservation and restoration work experience on public lands through its Groundwork Denver Green Corps Conservation Career Ladder Program. The program takes place at the the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and the Pike National Forest in Colorado. The conservation career ladder activities are geared towards breaking down the barriers for urban youth to obtain these careers. These activities include training in both hard and soft skills, education about natural resource conservation, career exploration with public land personnel, direct employment with economic incentives, and volunteer engagement. The youth, including 16 trained Green Corps youth and two youth leaders (ages 18-25), working at the Refuge and National Forest will improve five miles of bison fencing and prairie dog barrier fencing, collect 10 lbs. of short grass prairie native seed, remove invasive plants from 160 acres, restore four miles of riparian habitat by removing invasives, stabilizing banks, and planting native plants, and recruit and manage 100 volunteers at two volunteer days to engage the local community. Experienced Green Corps youth will also serve as peer mentors by sharing their expertise with younger Green Corps youth.

Project Location: The work will take place at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and the Pike National Forest near Denver, Colorado.

Hawaii

Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps

Kupu

NFWF Project #: 42818

FWS Funds:	\$20,000
Matching Funds:	\$21,768
Total Project Funds:	\$41,768

Project Description: The Kupu will work with the FWS on Hawaii Island (the ‘Big Island’) to engage youth in meaningful conservation and habitat restoration work. The project will provide a seven week conservation work opportunity to five youth during the summer of 2015. The youth crew will work outdoors learning the principles of natural resource stewardship while gaining valuable experience, knowledge, and job skills. The youth will engage in watershed restoration, surveying, native species planting, and clearing areas of invasive weeds to establish a more desirable habitat for native plant and wildlife across 83,961 acres of land with benefits for endangered birds, bats, and plant life. Project activities will take place on the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, established to conserve endangered forest birds and their habitats which are now being threatened by invasive exotic plants, animals, and disease. At least 40 rare taxa have been identified from this area which is home to 11 endangered bird species and one insect.

Project Location: Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii

Idaho

Council Rural Environmental Stewardship

Council School District

NFWF Project #: 41743

USFS Funds:	\$18,380
Matching Funds:	\$96,150
Total Project Funds:	\$114,530

Project Description: The Council School District will increase the stewardship ethic and inspire Idaho youth to pursue careers and employment in natural resource management and conservation. Sixteen rural, predominantly low-income youth will participate in summer crews to obtain natural resource job skills by carrying out established watershed work plans to improve 24 acres of habitat in the national forest and restore four miles of ranchland riparian habitat. The youth will work with natural resource professionals and private landowners and also serve as young adult mentors for stewardship and environmental educational projects that will benefit an additional 250 youth. The impact of the youth will be increased by sharing their stories with the greater community via the digital Youth Voice program of the Payette Children's Forest and through local newspaper articles.

Project Location: Payette National Forest and adjacent private lands, Idaho.

Boise District Collegiate Monitoring Program*Bureau of Land Management*

NFWF Project #: 43188

BLM Funds:	\$11,500
Matching Funds:	\$22,500
Total Project Funds:	\$34,000

Project Description: BLM will employ two student monitoring teams of five youth each made up of well qualified university students seeking a degree in range management to conduct habitat assessments and monitoring in priority sagebrush steppe habitats and riparian areas on BLM lands throughout the Boise District. The students will be part of the Collegiate Rangeland Monitoring Program which is designed to create the next generation of effective land managers with exceptional problem solving skills who will collect and analyze data to support land use decisions and direct opportunities for restoration. Participation in this program will enable students to see the uses and implications of their field research as they share the information they collect, make data presentations, and engage with grazing permittees, BLM specialists, and other interested members of the public. The students will be further involved in the process as BLM incorporates the data into assessment reports and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to make management decisions that enhance and maintain valuable habitats which are critical for threatened species such as sage-grouse.

Project Location: The project is located in southwestern Idaho on ~4 million acres of BLM administered lands within the Boise District.

Lake Cascade Habitat Management and Youth Development*Northwest Youth Corps*

NFWF Project #: 43917

Reclamation Funds:	\$50,000
Matching Funds:	\$33,871
Total Project Funds:	\$83,871

Project Description: The Northwest Youth Corps, Reclamation, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation will create a youth conservation program based around education, conservation and land management and hire six underserved youth as part of a larger effort to expand opportunities for 100 Idaho teens (ages 16-19) and connect these youth to the outdoors through habitat restoration and other conservation related projects at Lake Cascade. Crews will work in a designated Conservation Open Space (COS) and will restore up to 70 acres of habitat around Lake Cascade, in accordance with the Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan, as part of a larger wetland restoration, erosion control and habitat improvement project on two sites of 45 and 25 acres respectively. These projects are located approximately 1.5 miles south of Donnelly and approximately 13 miles north of Cascade, Idaho.

Project Location: Lake Cascade in Western Idaho.

Michigan

Green Connections Conservation Careers Program

The Greening of Detroit

NFWF Project #: 42496

USFS Funds: \$59,750

Matching Funds: \$204,820

Total Project Funds: \$264,570

Project Description: The Greening of Detroit, a charter member of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, will hire ten low-income Detroit youths to participate in the Green Connections Conservation Careers Program, an employment program designed to develop the next generation of conservationists and inspire further involvement, continuing education, and careers in conservation. Green Connections members will participate in conservation skills training, work projects, educational, and career development and enrichment activities over a period of 16 weeks for 32 hours each week between June and September 2014. Activities will include: the planting and care and maintenance of 1,600 trees over 2.5 acres of riparian habitat at Rouge Park, a 1,184 acre park that is largely comprises Detroit's last remaining virgin forest ecosystem; and the eradication of 50 acres of invasive plants on Belle Isle, a 982 acre municipally-owned park partially designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, in the Detroit River. Green Connections Youth will lead volunteers in tree planting activities as part of their training and employment experience in an effort to cultivate leadership and communication skills. Their work will advance the missions, programs and projects of the USFS and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and broaden their engagement in community and conservation initiatives.

Project Location: Rouge Park and Belle Isle, Wayne County, Michigan

Montana

Youth in Restoration

Missoula County Weed District

NFWF Project #: 42036

BLM Funds: \$20,775

Matching Funds: \$30,104

Total Project Funds: \$50,879

Project Description: The Missoula County Weed District will provide at least five high school students with career mentorship and on-the-ground experience in natural resource restoration work through its Youth in Restoration Program. High school students will work 30-40 hours per week for approximately 8-9 weeks implementing projects for public and private land management agencies. Tasks will include mechanical and biological noxious weed control, restoring wildlife habitat and native plant communities through seeding and planting, native seed collecting, fence removal, trail maintenance, stream restoration, construction of protective vegetation exclosures/brush barriers and other land-use related tasks. The project directly supports priority vegetation and natural resource management objectives of stewardship organizations, which include the Five Valleys Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, City of Missoula Open Space, and Swan Ecosystem Center, and builds and strengthens partnerships. The Youth in Restoration program offers expanded educational and job training opportunities to high school students, while providing a creative and cost effective solution for accomplishing a portion of the participating organizations vegetation management work. The cooperating organizations will provide an educational component to the youth that will connect the hands-on work back to the over-all land-use benefit.

Project Location: Headwaters of the Columbia River watershed, encompassing the Bitterroot, Clark Fork and Blackfoot Watersheds within Western Montana.

Yaak Valley Watershed Restoration Partnership Project*Yaak Valley Forest Council*

NFWF Project #: 42674

USFS Funds: \$5,600

Matching Funds: \$5,600

Total Project Funds: \$11,200

Project Description: The Yaak Valley Forest Council (YVFC) will collaborate with the Kootenai Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Cutthroat Trout Foundation, Montana’s Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the FWS, and the Kootenai National Forest on a summer pilot program to protect and improve fisheries in the Yaak River basin. Building on prior road de-commissioning, trail creation, stream surveys for sediment sources, culvert maintenance work, and fish monitoring and assessment, the existing program capacity will be doubled with the hiring of two youth to conduct further sediment source surveys in Yaak River tributaries, stream thermograph monitoring, trail maintenance and restoration on previously decommissioned road prisms, and non-toxic weed treatment on the banks of the Yaak River. As part of a new long-term YVFC initiative to help recover the grizzly bear in the Cabinet-Yaak recovery zone, the youth will monitor huckleberry production on partially open forest stands that are scheduled for a range of vegetation treatments. This data collection will help the USFS to develop management actions to positively affect huckleberry bush abundance, the primary forage of local grizzlies, and benefit the recovery of the grizzly bear.

Project Location: Yaak River valley, Yaak and Lincoln County, Northwest Montana.

Northern Great Plains Restoration Corps*Montana Conservation Corps, Inc.*

NFWF Project #: 43027

BLM Funds: \$50,000

FWS Funds: \$15,000

Matching Funds: \$98,092

Total Project Funds: \$163,092

Project Description: The Montana Conservation Corps, Inc. (MCC) will partner with the BLM, the USFS, and others to employ 26 youth for 28 weeks of varied and needed habitat restoration work. The multi-agency partnership program will expose youth to exceptional locations and a wide variety of conservation issues in the Northern Great Plains. As participants in MCC’s Northern Great Plains Restoration Corps, the youth will contribute valuable services, learn about prairie wildlife and careers in conservation, and receive job skills training and mentorship from natural resource professionals. On-the-ground restoration projects will result in: 45 miles of fencing improved, installed, or removed; 665 acres of wildlife habitat improved; 3,500 acres monitored or inventoried; 16 miles of unauthorized roads closed and restored; and 400 transects completed to benefit species of special concern that include pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, black tailed prairie dogs, and upland game birds. Upon completing the MCC program, youth will complete a program evaluation to assess skills, knowledge and attitudes of conservation. Competencies in civic engagement, leadership and communication, and attitudes and skills for work will also be assessed. MCC is participating in a national study by researchers at Brigham Young University to assess the impact of participation in conservation corps.

Project Location: Sites include the Upper Missouri N.M., the C.M. Benton Lake, and Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge in Montana.

Nevada

Youth Restoration of Forest and Rangelands in Nevada

Bureau of Land Management

NFWF Project #: 43066

BLM Funds: \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$260,124

Total Project Funds: \$335,124

Project Description: The BLM will expand its successful partnership with the Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) and local Native American tribes to employ, train, and mentor tribal and other youth to restore forests and rangelands in Northern Nevada. This project entails employing a 10-person NCC crew to accomplish approximately 400 acres of sage-grouse habitat enhancement and forest and woodland restoration projects on Carson City District (CCD) BLM lands. The BLM will coordinate with the Great Basin Institute to work in collaboration with the tribes for recruitment and training of local Native American youth to accomplish land management activities in addition to utilizing current NCC members on BLM projects. In addition to conducting job skills training needed for accomplishing the on-the-ground work, the youth will utilize seminars, outreach activities, and shadowing of BLM specialists in a variety of disciplines to gain a broad understanding of conservation issues and natural resource restoration and management approaches. NCC crew members will also select a special topic of interest and conduct verbal or written outreach on this topic. The goal of this project is for NCC crew members to be inspired and trained to a level that would allow them to further their career in Natural Resources.

Project Location: Carson City District BLM lands near Carson City, Cold Springs, and Austin, NV.

Developing Conservationists at the Summit Lake Reservation

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

NFWF Project #: 43102

Reclamation Funds: \$31,000

Matching Funds: \$15,500

Total Project Funds: \$46,500

Project Description: The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe will offer six youth the opportunity to participate in a 3 week internship at the Summit Lake Reservation during the summer of 2014. The Reservation contains Summit Lake, a terminal desert lake, and is home to the largest naturally reproducing lacustrine population of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Interns will assist with existing resource management projects being implemented by the Tribe's Natural Resources Department to "research, support, and conserve fish, wildlife, plant, and habitat resources" as is consistent with the Desert Terminal Lakes legislation. These activities will allow interns to gain experience in a variety of field survey and research methods. Activities may include: basin-wide fish assessments and stream surveys, sage grouse collaring and tracking, water quality monitoring and benthic macroinvertebrate surveys and identification, watershed assessments including meteorological and hydrologic monitoring, or noxious weed identification and management. Outcomes of this project include continuation or completion of current projects on the Summit Lake Reservation, furthering the conservation of a desert terminal lake, and training opportunities for youth interested in conservation activities. Protection and conservation of Summit Lake benefits resident fish and wildlife populations, as well as populations of wildlife moving between the Reservation and adjacent BLM and nearby FWS-managed lands.

Project Location: The project will be located on the Summit Lake Indian Reservation, situated remotely in northwestern Humboldt County, Nevada. Approximately 2.5 million acres of federal land surround the Reservation.

Vegetation and Habitat Monitoring in the Walker Basin

Great Basin Institute
 NFWF Project #: 43144

Reclamation Funds:	\$74,996
Matching Funds:	\$76,210
Total Project Funds:	\$151,206

Project Description: The Great Basin Institute, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will educate youth about important conservation work that is occurring in the Walker basin and watershed and employ a seven member youth crew and one crew leader. Skills attained by the field personnel will support development of natural resource professionals. Collecting data using the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol will educate field technicians in contemporary vegetation/habitat sampling techniques that have been developed for nation-wide use at multiple landscape scales. Technicians will see how vegetation and habitat data collected using these methods can help guide proper treatment design, provide a baseline data set against which treatment effects may be measured, and enrich currently existing datasets. Through this monitoring approach, a database will be generated that is comparable with other AIM data on regional and national levels related to terminal lakes and other watersheds, as well as data that have already been collected in the Walker basin and watershed in other formats. Outcomes of the project will be quantified as the number of sampling plots (2.34 acres each) completed, as well as the DIMA database that will be delivered following field surveys.

Project Location: Five sampling sites within the Walker River watershed in Nevada will be sampled: Mason Valley Wildlife Mgmt Area, the Pine Nut Mountains, Long Doctor project site, China Camp project site, and Spring Peak Fire site.

Walker River Restoration and Noxious Weed Removal

Smith Valley Conservation District
 NFWF Project #: 43219

Reclamation Funds:	\$30,248
Matching Funds:	\$15,235
Total Project Funds:	\$45,483

Project Description: The Smith Valley Conservation District will employ and train two youth to assist with abandoned farmland restoration efforts as a result of water acquisitions during the 2015 field season. This project will provide paramount assistance in establishing native and drought tolerant species on properties associated with the NFWF Walker Basin Restoration Program. NFWF is committed to restoring farmland impacted by water acquisitions and has been working with the Smith and Mason Valley Conservation Districts over the last three years, testing and developing restoration techniques applicable to the NFWF Walker Basin Restoration Program. Youth will gain experience in noxious weed identification, GPS/GIS data collection, native plant establishment and drip irrigation operation, repair, and maintenance on 280 acres. These tasks are critical to establishing native plants and eradicating noxious weeds in the basin. Through this project, nearly five miles of drip irrigation will be installed in early 2014 for the establishment of approximately 1,300 native shrubs. The youth will also help to inventory an 1,100 acre parcel where the first known infestation of medusahead has occurred in a Smith Valley pasture and help create a management plan, develop herbicide treatments for the infestation, and re-seed 10 acres of a treated area with desirable plant species along the riparian corridor of the Walker River. This annual grass is capable of invading active lek sites of the Bi-State Sage Grouse District Population Segment which is threatened with listing.

Project Location: The project will occur on abandoned farmland in Mason and Smith Valleys as well as along the riparian corridor of the Walker River and irrigated pasture.

New Mexico

Youth Crew Restoration Outreach Along the Bosque

Talking Talons Youth Leadership

NFWF Project #: 42507

Reclamation Funds:	\$17,322
FWS Funds:	\$5,000
NFWF Funds:	25,000
Matching Funds:	\$50,022
Total Project Funds:	\$97,344

Project Description: The Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains will provide 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefits the public lands and mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, Reclamation, and State of New Mexico. A six member youth crew will receive in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, as well as job and organizational skill development in event management, networking and facilitation of community outreach events. Crew members will conduct surface and groundwater quality monitoring and remove invasive vegetation on 80 acres on the Refuge and adjacent federal and state lands, and will host and participate in community outreach events. Volunteers will help coordinate events, create flyers and brochures, participate in fieldwork, and assist youth with the filming, editing, and production of video footage at the project sites. The video will be distributed using social media to spread the word about conservation related work and to help fuel interest in conservation careers and create a sustainable future volunteer force for the public lands. Finally, the youth crew will connect other youth to education and employment opportunities in conservation through multiple career fairs.

Project Location: Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent Reclamation and State lands, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Expanding Youth Outdoor Education and Employment in Cuba, New Mexico

Forest Guild, Inc.

NFWF Project #: 42909

USFS Funds:	\$38,735
Matching Funds:	\$80,000
Total Project Funds:	\$118,735

Project Description: The Forest Guild, Inc. will recruit, hire, and provide education and training in forestry, ecology, and natural resource management for a six member youth crew to work with the Cuba and Jemez Ranger Districts in the Santa Fe National Forest for nine weeks during the summer. The crew will receive a diverse array of training that will include First-aid/CPR, chainsaw safety (for 18 years old only), cross-cut saw safety, trail maintenance and inventory techniques for critical areas, wilderness and leave-no-trace ethics, range assessments, use of GPS units and ESRI ArcPAD and ArcMAP products, user route assessment and mitigation, erosion issues and mitigation, and assessment of riparian areas using proper functioning condition guide. Activities in the field will include: closing user created routes in the forest, repair and construction of fencing to protect riparian habitat, assessing and mitigating headcuts and gullies in streams, and improvement of 10 miles of degraded trails where they intersect with important springs resources. Crew members completing the summer program will also be eligible for college credit at Santa Fe Community College.

Project Location: The Cuba and Jemez Ranger Districts of the Santa Fe National Forest in Sandoval County in New Mexico.

New York

Shore Corps: Green Stewards Youth Workforce Program

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Inc.

NFWF Project #: 42938

USFS Funds:	\$5,000
NFWF Funds:	\$45,000
Matching Funds:	\$60,000
Total Project Funds:	\$110,000

Project Description: The Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, Inc. (RWA) will expand its successful Shore Corps, a workforce training program for underserved youth in Far Rockaway, Queens, New York. In collaboration with USFS, the internship program will build leadership, stewardship, and job skills of 20 young people over an 18-month period and expose them to mentors and careers in conservation and environmental science and education. Hands-on, interactive job training during the summer will be combined with classroom-based education and training during the academic year. The youth will lead a tree inventory and install non-invasive native salt tolerant trees, shrubs, and grasses to create a natural dune buffer along areas that suffered severe damage during Hurricane Sandy. Students will also plant wooden shims as part of a “biomimicry” project to help build up sand, a technique used to fortify the fragile dunes of Cape Cod. Program partners include the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, National Park Service, Norton Basin Edgemere Stewardship Group, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and American Littoral Society. These agencies and groups will collaborate with RWA environmental educators to provide training and internships for the students that provide pathways to employment opportunities.

Project Location: Arverne Dune Preserve and Arverne East site, Far Rockaway, Queens, Beach 32nd Street to Beach 74th Street, along the Atlantic Ocean in New York.

Oregon

Umpqua Resource Pathway

Phoenix School of Roseburg

NFWF Project #: 42282

USFS Funds:	\$45,223
Matching Funds:	\$46,033
Total Project Funds:	\$91,256

Project Description: The Phoenix School of Roseburg will expand upon their 20+ year partnership with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, through partnerships with the BLM Roseburg District, USFS Umpqua National Forest, Umpqua Community College, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and Umpqua Watersheds, Inc., to train and employ 12 youth through a program entitled Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway during the summer of 2015. A multi-year, tiered pathway will allow youth in Douglas County to gain career-specific skills in the natural resources field while progressing through a gradually more rigorous course of training and education. Youth crews will work as a team to broaden their skills on several projects with local and regional professionals on the Umpqua National Forest lands. These activities will have dual benefits: 12 youth will gain life-changing experiences in natural resources technology as they assemble important ecological data and will also offer a pathway to higher educational opportunities in natural resources through a partnership with Umpqua Community College. The outcome of the program is to ensure a pathway towards natural resources careers for at-risk youth through a “Learn, Earn, and Serve” model of education, skillset development, and work opportunities.

Project Location: Umpqua Basin, Douglas County, Oregon.

Growing Job Skills for Youth and Native Plants in NW Oregon*Tillamook Estuaries Partnership*

NFWF Project #: 43162

BLM Funds: \$74,875

Matching Funds: \$89,280

Total Project Funds: \$164,155

Project Description: The Tillamook Bay Watershed Council will coordinate Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) activities to engage approximately 90 young adults from the Oregon Youth Authority, Columbia River Youth Corps, and Tillamook Options Program School in the propagation of native plants to restore riparian, wetland, and upland landscape in northwest Oregon. NORP oversees the propagation of over 75,000 native plants annually for landscape-scale watershed restoration projects implemented by its partners on private, state, and public lands in Oregon. The service area of NORP covers approximately 6,800 square miles in eight counties (Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Benton). Partners include the BLM, watershed councils, land trusts, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, FWS, National Park Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local schools, and communities. The NORP coordinator will hire and direct the work of over 60 young adults employed through this project. Students will be involved in all aspects of native plant propagation and restoration and will learn valuable on-the-job skills for a career in landscape restoration. By participating in hands-on, community-based conservation work, students will also gain important life skills allowing them to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Project Location: Private, state, and public lands in Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, and Benton Counties, located in Northwest Oregon.

Tomorrow’s Conservationists: Youth At Work In Central Oregon*Heart of Oregon Corps, Inc.*

NFWF Project #: 42915

USFS Funds: \$49,500

Matching Funds: \$54,100

Total Project Funds: \$103,600

Project Description: “Tomorrow’s Conservationists: Youth at Work in Central Oregon” is a 21CSC collaborative project of Heart of Oregon Corps (HOC) and the USFS. The innovative project hires two crews of high school youth (16 youth total) from rural areas and 50% from minority backgrounds, including native youth. Youth will complete projects which will restore, rehabilitate, and enhance aspen stands across four watersheds on the Ochoco National Forest. Corps members will also contribute to wildlife habitat improvements on the Crooked River National Grassland, one of twenty in the United States. The two crews funded through this grant add to the greater scope of the Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) program, which aims to employ 200 youth total over two years and to achieve 65,800 hours of boots-on-the-ground environmental conservation work on over 2,000 acres of public lands. As they work, youth will gain critical job skills training, attain educational and personal goals and progress towards financial self-sufficiency. They will engage in mentoring relationships with natural resource professionals and crew leaders, and will be exposed to vital professional and educational opportunities that will facilitate and nurture their profession growth for life-long careers.

Project Location: This project takes place in four watersheds on the Ochoco National Forest, (Blue Mountains ecoregion) and on the Crooked River National Grassland, both located in the central region of Oregon State.

South Dakota

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Youth Conservation Team

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

NFWF Project #: 43238

USFS Funds: \$25,000

Matching Funds: \$25,000

Total Project Funds: \$50,000

Project Description: The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe will work with the USFS to enhance landscape conditions for wildlife on Fort Pierre National Grasslands, South Dakota. Nine tribal youth between the ages of 15-25 will work on projects that benefit wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship. Projects will include fence modification to improve passage for pronghorn antelope, manual and mechanical control of invasive weeds, planting native shrubs and re-seeding of native grasses in select areas. Vegetation will be planted in areas disturbed by water development projects to restore conditions for grassland birds and other wildlife species. Throughout this project, tribal youth will interact with Tribal and USFS biologists who will lead discussions on career opportunities and awareness of the natural world.

Project Location: Fort Pierre National Grasslands, which is a sub-unit of the Nebraska National Forest, located in central South Dakota.

Utah

Henry Mountain Fence Removal

BLM Henry Mountains Field Station

NFWF Project #: 42336

BLM Funds: \$17,400

Matching Funds: \$17,400

Total Project Funds: \$34,800

Project Description: BLM's Henry Mountains Field Station in Utah will coordinate with the Utah Conservation Corps, a 21st Century Conservation Corps organization, to provide outdoor employment and hands-on learning experiences for youth that will result in significant improvements to public land wildlife habitat. The distinguished Henry Mountains are home to world class mule deer and bison. The bison herd is one of only four free roaming, genetically pure, and disease free herds remaining on public lands in North America. It is recognized as a key population for maintaining the bison genome. Fences built around the Mountain range over the past one hundred years, for reasons such as grazing management, range improvements, vegetation treatment projects, and post-fire habitat treatments, are now in a state of disrepair and, in many cases, are no longer necessary. A three member youth crew will work with BLM staff over a period of eight weeks to improve wildlife habitat by removing approximately 8-14 miles of fence, including wire, posts, and poles, from the mountain. Other activities may include improving infrastructure and signage at recreation sites. The outcome will be a positive natural resource employment experience for the youth crew and significant improvements to public land wildlife habitat.

Project Location: The Henry Mountains, located between Capitol Reef National Park on the west and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on the south and east, and south of the town of Hanksville, Utah.

Youth Virgin River Invasive Species Management Project*American Conservation Experience*

NFWF Project #: 42822

BLM Funds:	\$45,840
Reclamation Funds:	\$16,268
Matching Funds:	\$120,645
Total Project Funds:	\$182,753

Project Description: The American Conservation Experience (ACE), in partnership with the BLM St. George Field Office, will employ three youth interns and two Americorps crews of 10 youth, and engage 145 volunteers, to eradicate, control, and remove invasive Russian olive, tamarisk and giant reed. Other project partners include Reclamation, Washington County Water Conservancy, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service. At least 145 volunteers will be engaged in hands-on restoration activities through six outreach events that will bring together local urban and tribal youth, scout groups, and university students. The crews will treat and remove all biomass in the areas designated by the county as highest priority. After treatment, the land will be surveyed twice a year by the county and project leader in order to ensure complete and effective eradication. This project will increase awareness of invasive species issues and the challenges of ecosystem management in the youth population and provide community outreach among stakeholders through large scale events such as the BLM Brown Bag Lectures, Dixie State University talks, and presentations at local weed management workshops. Restoration of Virgin River riparian zones is critical to the survival of the endangered woundfish, Virgin River chub, and Southwestern Willow flycatcher and improved stream and floodplain function.

Project Location: City of St. George and riparian zone of Virgin River north of the Arizona border to Zion National Park, Southern Utah.

Vermont**Green Mountain National Forest Youth Conservationists***Vermont Youth Conservation Corps*

NFWF Project #: 43222

USFS Funds:	\$50,000
Matching Funds:	\$93,628
Total Project Funds:	\$143,628

Project Description: The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, in partnership with the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and White River Partnership, will provide four paid internships for young people ages 18 to 22 and paid jobs for two crews of eight youth ages 16 to 22 to complete natural resources projects on the Green Mountain National Forest. Intern and Youth Crew positions will both complete 280 hours of hands-on project work for a total of 5,600 hours of youth engagement with natural resources projects. These youth will work together using the time-tested model of completing high-priority conservation projects along with structured and unstructured educational opportunities under excellent adult leadership.

USFS staff and other project partners will serve as mentors for the four Interns as they work side-by-side on a daily basis. These same staff will also serve as trainers, educators, and technical guides for the two youth crews as they complete natural resources projects around the Forest. All youth will be completing riparian plantings, wetland restoration, early successional forest stand maintenance, trail restoration, non-native invasive species management and monitoring, and natural resources inventories.

Project Location: Projects will take place in Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties in Vermont. All located on federal Green Mountain National Forest lands.

Washington

STEM With Boots On: Conservation Tech in the San Juans

Kwiaht: Center for Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea

NFWF Project #: 41996

BLM Funds: \$55,000

Matching Funds: \$61,507

Total Project Funds: \$116,507

Project Description: The Kwiaht Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea will expand its participation in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps by hiring six part-time conservation technicians to work for 10 weeks during the summer in the San Juan Islands National Monument. Program expansion will target tribal youth and regional veterans to work in close coordination with local BLM staff and alongside the Lopez Island Conservation Corps, San Juan Island Youth Conservation Corps and Orcas Island Youth Conservation Corps, and a team of community volunteers. Specialized skills training in GPS and GIS based mapping, mathematical modeling, restoration field work, plant identification, ornithology, marine fish identification, shoreline process modeling, and juvenile salmon research will be provided to the team and help prepare them for careers in conservation.

Project Location: San Juan Islands National Monument, Washington State.

Multi-State Projects

Celebrate Shorebirds: Celebra las Aves Playeras (AK, CA, CO, OR)

Environment for the Americas

NFWF Project #: 43279

BLM Funds: \$74,803

USFS Funds: \$7,111

Matching Funds: \$127,845

Total Project Funds: \$209,759

Project Description: The Environment for the Americas (EFTA) will expand paid internships to at least nine Latino youth, partner with federal agency partners at the following BLM, USFS and FWS sites: California's Coastal Monument, the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and Los Angeles; Alaska's Copper River Delta Colorado's Blanca Wetlands and Baca NWR and Boulder; and Yaquina Head, Oregon. The interns will receive conservation education and training in shorebird identification, mentoring from natural resource professionals, and be exposed to research and education techniques. Intern responsibilities will include providing shorebird conservation education programs in Latino communities; gathering information and monitoring wintering, migrating, and breeding shorebird populations; classifying landcover habitat characteristics; and quantifying invertebrate populations at Blanca Wetlands to determine habitat viability for shorebirds. Collected data will be used by land managers to make critical decisions about actions that benefit nesting and migratory shorebirds. Celebrate Shorebirds builds on EFTA's five years of experience studying the barriers to Latino participation in nature-based activities and its skills in recruiting and retaining Latino youth in natural resource positions ensure that Latino participants leave with the resume-building skills they need to successfully compete for jobs in a competitive field.

Project Location: Project activities will take place in four states (Alaska, California, Colorado, and Oregon) and at eight locations, including federal lands and state beaches and parks.

BLM Phoenix District Youth Initiative Program (AZ, CA)*Bureau of Land Management - Arizona*

NFWF Project #: 43213

BLM Funds:	\$50,903
NFWF Funds:	\$24,097
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$83,148</u>
Total Project Funds:	\$158,148

Project Description: The BLM Arizona State Office will engage at least three youth in natural resource conservation and restoration through participation in its successful Conservation and Resource Management Field Certification Program (Field School), a 16-week training and education program for local, underserved youth. This award-winning youth conservation program connects urban youth with public lands in formal environmental career training and employs youth who complete actual target allocations that preserve America’s natural and cultural heritage. Program graduates may continue on to a seasonal internship with the BLM. The BLM Field School’s goal is to teach youth about careers in conservation, provide employment opportunities, and complete conservation workload targets of the BLM Phoenix District Office. It also provides 16 college credits towards the BLM sponsored Environmental and Natural Resource Stewardship Academic Certificate at Phoenix College. Graduates then apply for internships at U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies or continue on in their education.

Project Location: Projects are located on federal, state and city public land across Arizona and into California. These include lands owned or managed by BLM, USFS, FWS, Arizona Game and Fish Department, the City of Phoenix, and Maricopa County.

Historic Railroad Trail & Camp Davis Trail (AZ, NV)*Southwest Conservation Corps*

NFWF Project #: 43982

Reclamation Funds:	\$49,600
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$35,905</u>
Total Project Funds:	\$85,505

Project Description: The Southwest Conservation Corps will partner with Reclamation and the National Park Service (NPS) to improve the Historic Railroad Trail at Hoover Dam using Outdoor Accessibility Standards to expand recreational opportunities at the Dam. The Historic Railroad Trail is a 2.5 mile improved surface trail that follows the historic railroad entrance to Hoover Dam. This railroad route was utilized to move material while contractors and Federal employees were constructing the Dam. The trail is open and utilized by bikers and walkers and it is a great route to see the natural landscape, cultural features, and Lake Mead. The improvements conducted through this project will allow for a better route for individuals with disabilities. Improvements include improving the grade, cross slope, and small protrusions and inconsistencies in the trail surface. In addition, signage, interpretive signs, and installation of dog-waste containers, companion seating for benches, and the installation of safety barriers along the trail drop offs. Reclamation is partnering with the NPS to build and access trail to the Historic Railroad Trail.

The Southwest Conservation Corps will also connect the existing Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trails adjacent to Davis Dam to continue through the Davis Camp to Bullhead City, Arizona and across the Colorado River to Laughlin, Nevada. The Davis Camp Trail will utilize existing roads, service roads, and trails to create a loop. Upon completion, trail users will be able to utilize a six mile loop along the Colorado River through two states. A crew of six corps members and two crew leaders will install signage, trail markers, trail construction, walkway improvement, landscaping and native and invasive vegetation management.

Project Location: Historic Trail is at Hoover Dam in Arizona and Nevada. Davis Camp is at Bullhead City, AZ and across the Colorado River to Laughlin, NV.

Generation Green-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (CA, NV) <i>Great Basin Institute</i> NFWF Project #: 43693	USFS Funds:	\$36,370
	Matching Funds:	\$235,355
	Total Project Funds:	\$271,725

Project Description: The Generation Green program is run by the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) in partnership with the Great Basin Institute (GBI) in South Lake Tahoe, California. Generation Green is designed to engage local high school students in hands-on ecological conservation and leadership development with an integrated experience that combines year-round community service, academic achievement, environmental stewardship and career exploration outside of the classroom. The program targets non-traditional forest users, often from low-income, and diverse backgrounds. The LTBMU provides a variety of work experiences in multiple departments and staff serve as mentors and role models, exposing students to careers in natural resources. Four crews consisting each of six high school students, one USFS Crew Leader and one Assistant Crew Leader spend eight summer weeks working in, and learning about, the complexities of managing natural resources and becoming future generation land stewards. These crews will help remove five acres of noxious weeds, survey 25 miles of trails, construct one new mile of trail for the Tahoe Rim Trail, and restore 10 campsites in Desolation Wilderness. Additional projects include: relocating sensitive aquatic species, completing aquatic surveys, and monitoring a watershed restoration project.

Project Location: This project will occur around Lake Tahoe on USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit lands in both California and Nevada.

Bird Banding Internships for Underserved Community Youth (CA, OR) <i>Klamath Bird Observatory</i> NFWF Project #: 43111	BLM Funds:	\$40,804
	FWS Funds:	\$20,000
	Matching Funds:	\$73,007
	Total Project Funds:	\$133,811

Project Description: The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) will build on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American, Hispanic, and other underserved youth. The combination of KBO's established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. Program expansion will create 4 six-month internship positions. The internships provide the opportunity for: (1) training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques, with an emphasis on bird banding; (2) supports an academic approach to learning and a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and (3) provide an opportunity to attain bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

A working atmosphere of respect and collaboration is established with an initial intern orientation day with staff and Board members, frequent project leader and other staff member check-in meetings, a series of day-long extracurricular seminars, and KBO social events. Extracurricular seminar topics in field biology methods and skills outside the internship project experience are taught by staff members with varying expertise and experiences to share with interns. Interns are provided with a robust opportunity to gain a realistic appreciation of what a field biologist or similar position entails as part of their training and practical experience and for how the data they collect is applied to address conservation priorities at regional, continental, and hemispheric scales.

Project Location: Klamath Bird Observatory headquarters are in Ashland, OR; long-term field residences are in the Upper Klamath Basin, OR. This project includes 10 monitoring sites in southern Oregon and northern California.

**Delores River Restoration: Building on Youth Corps Success
(CO, UT)**

Four Corners School of Outdoor Education
NFWF Project #: 42708

BLM Funds:	\$35,248
Reclamation Funds:	\$23,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$72,000</u>
Total Project Funds:	\$130,248

Project Description: The Four Corners School of Outdoor Education and its Canyon Country Youth Corps will field two youth conservation corps crews in support of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership and provide them with 20 weeks of on-the-ground work in remote wilderness areas treating and removing invasive tamarisk and other non-native plants and re-vegetating riparian areas along the Dolores River by planting cottonwood and willow saplings and native grasses to prevent erosion of the river banks. Tamarisk, a woody invasive introduced as a bank stabilizer in the U.S. in the early 1900's, has had a devastating effect on watersheds in the western U.S., including the Dolores River in Colorado and Utah. Invasive species have replaced floods as having the most negative impact on riparian systems.

The youth will receive training, education, and mentorship from natural resource professionals throughout the summer and develop job related skills including chainsaw operation, emergency preparedness, CPR, and life skills including team building, conflict resolution, problem solving, and civic engagement. Post- project the youth (ages 18-25) will be provided with training in resume writing, job search and interview skills, and navigating the federal jobs application process to encourage crew members to consider land management careers. The work will restore 50 acres in the Dolores River Watershed on private and public land providing benefits to BLM and Reclamation lands.

Project Location: BLM offices in Tres Rios, Uncompahgre, Grand Junction and Moab and lands in Dolores, Montrose, and Mesa Counties, Colorado and Grand County, Utah.

**Career Youth Training: Conservation in the Ohio River Basin
(IN, KY)**

Ohio River Foundation
NFWF Project #: 43120

FWS Funds:	\$20,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
Total Project Funds:	\$60,000

Project Description: The Ohio River Foundation will employ three separate crews of six matriculating high school students led by a recent college graduate for 5 weeks each (21 youth at a total of 3,150 hours). The youth teams will install at least 70 projects in the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and Boone and Hoosier National Forests (NFs) that will protect native fauna and reduce erosion and runoff to protect and improve water quality. Activities to be carried out by the Rural Youth Conservation Team (YCT) will include: invasive species removal; planting trees and shrubs along streams and lakeshores; and installing water bars and other diversions to direct water from dirt roads and paths to vegetated areas. The NFs will provide the plants and other materials necessary for construction and project implementation. In addition to the significant benefit of improved local water quality, the students acquire an appreciation of the fragility of lakes and streams, and the connection between human activities and water quality. They also benefit academically and professionally from spending time during the program learning from university professors and water quality expert, as well as conducting hands-on work. In addition to being exposed to conservation career options, they become better prepared to make responsible land use decisions in their communities.

Project Location: Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge (IN), Daniel Boone National Forest (KY), Hoosier National Forest (IN).

Montana-Wyoming Reclamation Youth Corps*Montana Conservation Corps*

NFWF Project #: 43984

Reclamation Funds:	\$35,000
Matching Funds:	\$42,195
Total Project Funds:	\$77,195

Project Description: Since the early 1900's, Reclamation has been a steward of the waters of the Upper Missouri Basin. In the 1940's and 50's, the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Project in Montana and Wyoming developed reclamation projects at Tiber, Canyon Ferry, and Keyhole Reservoirs. Today, these sites remain essential assets for agriculture, but also for outdoor recreation for the people of Montana and Wyoming, and they host diverse wildlife and fisheries. In partnership with Reclamation, Montana Conservation Corps will mobilize 35 youth into the Montana-Wyoming Reclamation Youth Corps as stewards of these resources.

This project will mobilize diverse youth from urban, rural, and tribal communities to participate in 12 weeks of conservation work at Tiber Dam/Lake Elwell, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, and Keyhole Reservoir. Youth will contribute valuable services to mitigate invasive weeds, improve fencing to protect Reclamation resources, plant trees, and enhance recreation facilities, and learn about education and career opportunities in conservation fields.

Project Location: Canyon Ferry Reservoir in South Central Montana, Tiber Reservoir/Lake Elwell in North Central Montana and Keyhole Reservoir in North Eastern Wyoming.

Texas Conservation Corps Sustainable Recreation (TX, OR)*American YouthWorks*

NFWF Project #: 43985

Reclamation Funds:	\$10,000
NFWF Funds:	\$20,000
Matching Funds:	\$15,000
Total Project Funds:	\$45,000

Project Description: Sixteen young adult corps members will be enrolled in the Texas Conservation Corps program at American YouthWorks (TxCC) and will receive training to introduce them to basic conservation and natural resource topics as well as additional skills trainings such as the federal S212 chainsaw certification and proficiency training in GPS and GIS technologies and software. The corps members will then travel to Reclamation's Washita Basin Project and Fort Cobb Reservoir site. Here the corps members will work in collaboration with Texas Conservation Corps training staff, Reclamation natural resources personnel and Fort Cobb State Park employees to design a sustainable nature trail system at the site. The corps members will flag and GPS the trail system, including the inventory of any important natural features and sustainable trail challenges. The corps members will return to the Texas Conservation Corps headquarters to create a GIS map, database, analysis and trail narrative for submittal to Reclamation staff for review. With approval from Reclamation, the crews will return to implement the sustainable design.

TxCC will recruit, train, and equip two teams of 8 young adults, aged 18-25, from a multi-state and largely urban area. Participants will each serve at least 100 hours each resulting in over 1,600 hours of conservation and stewardship experience for the project and over 2 miles of trail rehabilitation on 1,872 acres.

Project Location: Training will occur in conjunction with Reclamation's Oklahoma- Texas Office and the Texas Conservation Corps' HQ in Austin, Texas and on-the-job training and work project will be in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

About the Program Partners



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores our nation's native wildlife, species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing conservation needs and matches those investments with private funds. www.nfwf.org



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supports conservation efforts that benefit public land ecosystems. BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM is responsible for the management and conservation of resources on 258 million surface acres, as well as 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. www.blm.gov



The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. www.usbr.gov



The USDA Forest Service (USFS) seeks to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. USFS manages 193 million acres through 155 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 States. www.fs.fed.us



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) oversees the conservation, development, and management of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. In addition, FWS manages 551 Refuges representing 150 million acres. www.fws.gov